

AUDIT COMMISSION REPORT-LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

Report By: Audit Services Manager

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note the Audit Commission's report on Local Area Agreements.

Financial Implications

None

Recommendations

THAT the report be noted.

Reason

Audit Commission Reports form part of the Council's Statement on Internal Control Assurance process, this is reinforced by the process previously agreed by the Audit Committee on 7th April 2006 that the Principal Audit Manager would monitor recommendations and report on progress.

Considerations

1. Cabinet previously considered the Audit of the Local Area Agreement report on 26th October 2006 and the report contents were noted (Appendix 1 refers).
2. The Audit Commission has requested that the report is presented to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee (Appendix 2 refers).
3. It should be noted that Herefordshire Council officers are currently working with the Herefordshire Partnership Chief Executives' Group and Performance Management Group to incorporate recommendations made into the partnership Action plans.

Risk Management

4. The Council now has in place a Statement of Internal Control Assurance Framework, which was approved by the Audit Committee. Part of the process involves actions that arise from the Council's Annual Audit and Inspection letter and associated reports. Lack of action on the Council's part could have an adverse effect on the Council's Use of Resources score at the next assessment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- CIPFA guidance on the Statement of Internal Control.